

VI. CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for establishing an electronic account over a network,  
comprising the steps of:  
receiving a request from a user to initiate an electronic account over the  
network;  
matching a physical address of the user from an address database, the  
physical address corresponding to a location where the user  
receives mail; and  
linking the electronic account to the physical address.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the matching step occurs by matching a  
physical address from a United States Postal Service address database.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
establishing an e-mail address for the electronic account.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the location is a geographic location.
5. A method for establishing electronic mail services over a network using an  
electronic account, comprising the steps of:

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receiving a request for electronic mail services from a user, the request

including a physical address of the user;

generating an electronic address for the user, wherein the user can

receive electronic mail at the electronic address;

initiating an electronic account over the network for the user, wherein the

electronic account has a unique electronic customer account

number corresponding to the user; and

linking the physical address and the electronic address using the

electronic account.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the electronic address is a United States Postal Service electronic e-mail address.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the electronic address is a United States Postal Service vanity e-mail address.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein the request further includes a preferred electronic address.

9. A method for processing electronic mail services over a network using an electronic account, comprising the steps of:

linking the electronic account to a physical address of a user;  
linking the electronic account to an electronic address of the user;  
receiving a request from a service to access the electronic account over  
the network; and  
receiving a request from the user to access the service over the network  
via the electronic account.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising the steps of:  
presenting an identifier of the service to the user, the identifier including at  
least one service delivery option;  
receiving a request for the service from the user, the request including a  
preferred service delivery option; and  
providing the service to the user via the preferred service delivery option.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the preferred service delivery option is  
delivery to the physical address.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the preferred service delivery option is  
delivery to the electronic address.

13. A method for delivering mail, comprising the steps of:

receiving mail for delivery to a customer with an electronic account, where  
the electronic account has both an electronic address for the  
customer and a physical address for the customer, both the  
electronic address and the physical address being linked by the  
electronic account; and  
delivering the mail to the customer.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the mail is received in physical format by the United States Postal Service.
15. The method of claim 13, wherein the mail is received electronically by the United States Postal Service.
16. The method of claim 13, wherein the mail is delivered to the electronic address.
17. The method of claim 13, wherein the mail is delivered to the physical address.
18. A method for delivering a message to a user with an electronic account, comprising the steps of:

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receiving the message directed to the user with the electronic account,  
where the message includes an electronic address and an  
incomplete physical address of the user;  
determining a complete physical address of the user from the electronic  
address using an address database; and  
delivering the message to the user.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of:  
delivering the message to the user at the electronic address.
20. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of:  
delivering the message to the user at the physical address.
21. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of:  
informing a sender of the complete physical address.
22. The method of claim 18, wherein the address database is a United States  
Postal Service address database.
23. A method for delivering a message to a user with an electronic account,  
comprising the steps of:

receiving the message directed to the user with the electronic account,  
where the message includes an incomplete electronic address and  
a physical address of the user;  
determining a complete electronic address of the user from the physical  
address using an address database; and  
delivering the message to the user.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of:  
delivering the message to the user at the electronic address.
25. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of:  
delivering the message to the user at the physical address.
26. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of:  
informing a sender of the complete electronic address.
27. The method of claim 23, wherein the address database is a United States  
Postal Service address database.

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28. A method for delivering a message to a user with an electronic account,  
the electronic account including a preferred delivery address,  
comprising the steps of:  
receiving a temporary delivery address for the user and a time period  
corresponding to the temporary delivery address;  
receiving a message directed to the preferred delivery address during the  
time period; and  
sending the message to the temporary delivery address.
29. The method of claim 28, further comprising the steps of:  
receiving a second message directed to the preferred delivery address  
outside of the time period; and  
sending the second message to the preferred delivery address.
30. The method of claim 28, wherein the preferred delivery address is a  
physical address.
31. The method of claim 28, wherein the preferred delivery address is an e-  
mail address.

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32. The method of claim 28, wherein the preferred delivery address is a fax number.

5 33. A system for establishing an electronic account over a network,  
comprising:  
a receiving component configured to receive a request from a user to  
initiate an electronic account over the network;  
a matching component configured to match a physical address of the user  
from an address database, the physical address corresponding to a  
10 location where the user receives mail; and  
a linking component configured to link the electronic account to the  
physical address.

15 34. The system of claim 33, wherein the matching component matches a  
physical address from a United States Postal Service address database.

35. The system of claim 33, further comprising:  
an establishing component configured to establish an e-mail address for  
the electronic account.



36. The system of claim 33, wherein the location is a geographic location.
37. A system for establishing electronic mail services over a network using an electronic account, comprising:
- a receiving component configured to receive a request for electronic mail services from a user, the request including a physical address of the user;
- a generating component configured to generate an electronic address for the user, wherein the user can receive electronic mail at the electronic address;
- an initiating component configured to initiate an electronic account over the network for the user, wherein the electronic account has a unique electronic customer account number corresponding to the user; and
- a linking component configured to link the physical address and the electronic address using the electronic account.
38. The system of claim 37, wherein the electronic address is a United States Postal Service electronic e-mail address.

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39. The system of claim 37, wherein the electronic address is a United States Postal Service vanity e-mail address.

40. The system of claim 37, wherein the request further includes a preferred electronic address.

41. A system for processing electronic mail services over a network using an electronic account, comprising:  
a physical linking component configured to link the electronic account to a physical address of a user;  
an electronic linking component configured to link the electronic account to an electronic address of the user;  
a service request receiving component configured to receive a request from a service to access the electronic account over the network;  
and  
a user request receiving component configured to receive a request from the user to access the service over the network via the electronic account.

42. The system of claim 41, further comprising:

a presenting component configured to present an identifier of the service to the user, the identifier including at least one service delivery option;

a preferred delivery request receiving component configured to receive a request for the service from the user, the request including a preferred service delivery option; and

a providing component configured to provide the service to the user via the preferred service delivery option.

43. The system of claim 42, wherein the preferred service delivery option is delivery to the physical address.

44. The system of claim 42, wherein the preferred service delivery option is delivery to the electronic address.

45. A system for delivering mail, comprising:  
a receiving component configured to receive mail for delivery to a customer with an electronic account, where the electronic account has both an electronic address for the customer and a physical

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address for the customer, both the electronic address and the  
physical address being linked by the electronic account; and  
a delivering component configured to deliver the mail to the customer.

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46. The system of claim 45, wherein the mail is received in physical format by  
the United States Postal Service.

47. The system of claim 45, wherein the mail is received electronically by the  
United States Postal Service.

48. The system of claim 45, wherein the mail is delivered to the electronic  
address.

49. The system of claim 45, wherein the mail is delivered to the physical  
address.

50. A system for delivering a message to a user with an electronic account,  
comprising:

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a receiving component configured to receive the message directed to the user with the electronic account, where the message includes an electronic address and an incomplete physical address of the user; a determining component configured to determine a complete physical address of the user from the electronic address using an address database; and a message delivering component configured to deliver the message to the user.

51. The system of claim 50, further comprising:  
an electronic address delivering component configured to deliver the message to the user at the electronic address.
52. The system of claim 50, further comprising:  
a physical address delivering component configured to deliver the message to the user at the physical address.
53. The system of claim 50, further comprising:  
an informing component configured to inform a sender of the complete physical address.

54. The system of claim 50, wherein the address database is a United States Postal Service address database.

55. A system for delivering a message to a user with an electronic account,

comprising:

a receiving component configured to receive the message directed to the

user with the electronic account, where the message includes an

incomplete electronic address and a physical address of the user;

a determining component configured to determine a complete electronic

address of the user from the physical address using an address

database; and

a message delivering component configured to deliver the message to the

user.

56. The system of claim 55, further comprising:

an electronic address delivering component configured to deliver the

message to the user at the electronic address.

57. The system of claim 55, further comprising:

a physical address delivering component configured to deliver the  
message to the user at the physical address.

58. The system of claim 55, further comprising:  
an informing component configured to inform a sender of the complete  
electronic address.
59. The system of claim 55, wherein the address database is a United States  
Postal Service address database.
60. A system for delivering a message to a user with an electronic account,  
the electronic account including a preferred delivery address,  
comprising:  
a temporary delivery address receiving component configured to receive a  
temporary delivery address for the user and a time period  
corresponding to the temporary delivery address;  
a first message receiving component configured to receive a message  
directed to the preferred delivery address during the time period;  
and

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a first message sending component configured to send the message to  
the temporary delivery address.

61. The system of claim 60, further comprising:  
a second message receiving component configured to receive a second  
message directed to the preferred delivery address outside of the  
time period; and  
a second message sending component configured to send the second  
message to the preferred delivery address.

62. The system of claim 60, wherein the preferred delivery address is a  
physical address.

63. The system of claim 60, wherein the preferred delivery address is an e-  
mail address.

64. The system of claim 60, wherein the preferred delivery address is a fax  
number.

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65. A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for establishing an electronic account over a network, the computer readable code comprising:
- a receiving module configured to receive a request from a user to initiate an electronic account over the network;
- a matching module configured to match a physical address of the user from an address database, the physical address corresponding to a location where the user receives mail; and
- a linking module configured to link the electronic account to the physical address.

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66. A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for establishing electronic mail services over a network using an electronic account, the computer readable code comprising:
- a receiving module configured to receive a request for electronic mail services from a user, the request including a physical address of the user;

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a generating module configured to generate an electronic address for the user, wherein the user can receive electronic mail at the electronic address;

an initiating module configured to initiate an electronic account over the network for the user, wherein the electronic account has a unique electronic customer account number corresponding to the user; and

a linking module configured to link the physical address and the electronic address using the electronic account.

67. A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for processing electronic mail services over a network using an electronic account, the computer readable code comprising:
- a physical linking module configured to link the electronic account to a physical address of a user;
- an electronic linking module configured to link the electronic account to an electronic address of the user;
- a service request receiving module configured to receive a request from a service to access the electronic account over the network; and

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a user request receiving module configured to receive a request from the user to access the service over the network via the electronic account.

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68. A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for delivering mail, the computer readable code comprising: a receiving module configured to receive mail for delivery to a customer with an electronic account, where the electronic account has both an electronic address for the customer and a physical address for the customer, both the electronic address and the physical address being linked by the electronic account; and a delivering module configured to deliver the mail to the customer.

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69. A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for delivering a message to a user with an electronic account, the computer readable code comprising: a receiving module configured to receive the message directed to the user with the electronic account, where the message includes an electronic address and an incomplete physical address of the user;

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a determining module configured to determine a complete physical  
address of the user from the electronic address using an address  
database; and  
a message delivering module configured to deliver the message to the  
user.

70. A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied  
therein for delivering a message to a user with an electronic  
account, the computer readable code comprising:  
a receiving module configured to receive the message directed to the user  
with the electronic account, where the message includes an  
incomplete electronic address and a physical address of the user;  
a determining module configured to determine a complete electronic  
address of the user from the physical address using an address  
database; and  
a message delivering module configured to deliver the message to the  
user.

71. A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied  
therein for delivering a message to a user with an electronic

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account, the electronic account including a preferred delivery

address, the computer readable code comprising:

a temporary address receiving module configured to receive a temporary

delivery address for the user and a time period corresponding to

the temporary delivery address;

a message receiving module configured to receive a message directed to

the preferred delivery address during the time period; and

a message sending module configured to send the message to the

temporary delivery address.

72. A system for establishing an electronic account over a network,

comprising:

means for receiving a request from a user to initiate an electronic account

over the network;

means for matching a physical address of the user from an address

database, the physical address corresponding to a location where

the user receives mail; and

means for linking the electronic account to the physical address.

73. A system for establishing electronic mail services over a network using an electronic account, comprising:

means for receiving a request for electronic mail services from a user, the request including a physical address of the user;

means for generating an electronic address for the user, wherein the user can receive electronic mail at the electronic address;

means for initiating an electronic account over the network for the user, wherein the electronic account has a unique electronic customer account number corresponding to the user; and

means for linking the physical address and the electronic address using the electronic account.

74. A system for processing electronic mail services over a network using an electronic account, comprising:

means for linking the electronic account to a physical address of a user;

means for linking the electronic account to an electronic address of the user;

means for receiving a request from a service to access the electronic account over the network; and

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means for receiving a request from the user to access the service over the network via the electronic account.

75. A system for delivering mail, comprising:

means for receiving mail for delivery to a customer with an electronic account, where the electronic account has both an electronic address for the customer and a physical address for the customer, both the electronic address and the physical address being linked by the electronic account; and

means for delivering the mail to the customer.

76. A system for delivering a message to a user with an electronic account, comprising:

means for receiving the message directed to the user with the electronic account, where the message includes an electronic address and an incomplete physical address of the user;

means for determining a complete physical address of the user from the electronic address using an address database; and

means for delivering the message to the user.

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77. A system for delivering a message to a user with an electronic account, comprising:
- means for receiving the message directed to the user with the electronic account, where the message includes an incomplete electronic address and a physical address of the user;
- means for determining a complete electronic address of the user from the physical address using an address database; and
- means for delivering the message to the user.
78. A system for delivering a message to a user with an electronic account, the electronic account including a preferred delivery address, comprising:
- means for receiving a temporary delivery address for the user and a time period corresponding to the temporary delivery address;
- means for receiving a message directed to the preferred delivery address during the time period; and
- means for sending the message to the temporary delivery address.